

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An oven for heating blanks on the run, especially preforms or intermediate containers, made of a thermoplastic, this oven comprising conveying ~~means, means~~ suitable for supporting and moving the blanks one after another while making each of them rotate about its own axis, and heating means placed laterally to the conveying means so as to heat the bodies of said moving blanks, wherein the conveying means are arranged so as to have at least two conveying branches lying ~~approximately~~ substantially parallel to each other, and ~~near each other,~~ and having opposite conveying directions, ~~the blanks traveling along said two branches being traveled one after each other by the blanks, and~~ the heating means being placed between said two parallel conveying branches which extend near each other, wherein said heating means includes only one single line of heating infrared lamps, which extends between and substantially parallel to said two conveying branches, so that said infrared lamps and ~~arranged so as to~~ heat, bilaterally and simultaneously, the blanks running in the opposite conveying directions along the two conveying branches respectively.

2. (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 1, wherein the two conveying branches are joined, at one of their ends, by a loop conveying section that is located outside the zone where the heating ~~means~~ infrared lamps act.

3. (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 1, wherein it includes two pairs of parallel conveying branches with heating ~~means~~infrared lamp placed between the two branches of each pair respectively, the four conveying branches being connected together via loop conveying sections located outside the zones where the heating ~~means~~infrared lamps act.

4. (previously presented): The oven as claimed in claim 3, wherein the four conveying branches are mutually parallel.

5. (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the conveying branches are ~~approximately~~substantially rectilinear.

6. (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 1, wherein reflectors are placed alongside each conveying branch on the opposite side from that occupied by the heating ~~means~~infrared lamps.

7. (canceled).